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ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Report of the Second Committee (Part I)*

Rapporteur: Mr. Ahmed Yousif MOHAMED (Sudan)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 23 September 1994, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in its agenda the item entitled:

"Environment and sustainable development:

(a) Implementation of decisions and recommendations of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development;

(b) Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind;

(c) Sustainable use and conservation of the marine living resources of the high seas: United Nations Conference on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks;

(d) Elaboration of an international convention to combat desertification in those countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa;

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* The report of the Committee on this agenda item will be issued in several parts, under the symbol A/49/729 and addenda.

(e) Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States"

and to allocate it to the Second Committee.

2. At its 30th plenary meeting, on 13 October, following a request by the Chairman of the Second Committee (see A/49/483 and A/49/494), the General Assembly decided that, while action on sub-items (d) and (e) would be taken in the Second Committee, the debate on those sub-items would be held directly in plenary meeting.

3. The Second Committee held a general discussion on the item at its 13th to 16th meetings, from 19 to 21 October 1994. An account of the Committee's discussion of the item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/49/SR.13-16). Attention is also drawn to the general debate held by the Committee at its 3rd to 8th meetings, on 7 and from 11 to 13 October (see A/C.2/49/SR.3-8). An account of the Committee's further consideration of the item will be given in addenda to the present report.

4. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its fourth special session (A/49/223-E/1994/105);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on large-scale pelagic drift-net fishing and its impact on the living marine resources of the world's oceans and seas (A/49/469);

(c) Letter dated 6 April 1994 from the Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting the joint communiqué of the fourth meeting of the Summit-level Group for South-South Consultation and Cooperation, held at New Delhi from 28 to 30 March 1994 (A/49/119);

(d) Letter dated 27 June 1994 from the Permanent Representative of Algeria to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting the ministerial statement on an agenda for development, adopted by the Group of 77 on 24 June 1994 (A/49/204-E/1994/90);

(e) Letter dated 27 June 1994 from the Permanent Representative of Algeria to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting the ministerial declaration adopted on the occasion of the thirtieth anniversary of the Group of 77 (A/49/205-E/1994/91);

(f) Letter dated 11 July 1994 from the Permanent Representative of Barbados to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting the communiqué of the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community, held at Bridgetown from 4 to 7 July 1994 (A/49/229);

(g) Letter dated 12 July 1994 from the Permanent Representative of Tunisia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting a message

from the President of Tunisia and current Chairman of the Organization of African Unity to the Heads of State and Government of the Group of Seven (A/49/256);

(h) Letter dated 8 August 1994 from the Permanent Representative of Germany to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting the final statement of the twelfth session of the Interaction Council, held at Dresden, Germany, from 7 to 10 June 1994 (A/49/307-S/1994/958);

(i) Letter dated 5 September 1994 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Australia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting the communiqué of the Twenty-fifth South Pacific Forum, held at Brisbane, Australia, from 31 July to 2 August 1994 (A/49/381);

(j) Letter dated 3 October 1994 from the Permanent Representative of Algeria to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting the ministerial declaration of the Group of 77, adopted on 30 September 1994 (A/49/462 and Corr.1);

(k) Letter dated 30 September 1994 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Tunisia to the Secretary-General transmitting the declaration adopted by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Organization of African Unity in New York on 29 September 1994 (A/49/479);

(l) Letter dated 11 October 1994 from the Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting the declaration of the Ministerial Meeting of the Least Developed Countries, adopted in New York on 4 October 1994 (A/49/506);

(m) Letter dated 17 October 1994 from the Permanent Representative of Indonesia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting the communiqué of the Meeting of Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries to the forty-ninth session of the General Assembly, held at United Nations Headquarters on 5 October 1994 (A/49/532-S/1994/1179);

(n) Letter dated 27 October 1994 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting information prepared by the Federal Ministry for Development, Science and Environment on the effects of sanctions on the environment in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (A/C.2/49/8);

(a) Implementation of decisions and recommendations of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development

(a) Note by the Secretary-General (A/49/463);

(b) Letter dated 11 January 1994 from the Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting the communiqué of the inaugural meeting of the Caribbean Community-Cuba Joint Commission, held on 13 December 1993 (A/49/64);

(c) Letter dated 25 June 1994 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Egypt addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting the documents adopted by the Eleventh Ministerial Conference of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Cairo from 31 May to 3 June 1994 (A/49/287-S/1994/894 and Corr.1);

(b) Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind

Report of the Secretary-General (A/49/485);

(c) Sustainable use and conservation of the marine living resources of the high seas: United Nations Conference on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks

(a) Report of the Secretary-General (A/49/522);

(b) Note verbale dated 12 July 1994 from the Permanent Mission of Argentina to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting the Declaration of Buenos Aires adopted on 9 June 1994 by the International Seminar on the Adoption of an Effective Regime for the Conservation of Living Resources in the Area Adjacent to the Exclusive Economic Zone (A/49/254);

(d) Elaboration of an international convention to combat desertification in those countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa

(a) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the reports of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for the Elaboration of an International Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa, on its third, fourth and fifth sessions (A/49/84 and Add.1 and 2);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa (A/49/477);

(c) Letter dated 4 October 1994 from the Chairman of the Second Committee to the President of the General Assembly (A/49/483);

(e) Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

(a) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting a feasibility study undertaken by the United Nations Development Programme on the development of an information network for small island developing States (A/49/414);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on action taken by the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to implement the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (A/49/425 and Add.1);

(c) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting a feasibility study undertaken by the United Nations Development Programme on the development of a technical assistance programme for small island developing States (A/49/459);

(d) Letter dated 7 October 1994 from the Chairman of the Second Committee to the President of the General Assembly (A/49/494);

(e) Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, 25 April-6 May 1994 (A/CONF.167/9 and Corr.1 and 2). 1/

5. At the 13th meeting, on 19 October, introductory statements were made by the Under-Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development and the Legal Counsel (see A/C.2/49/SR.13).

1/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.I.18.